

SUBVERSIVE FAIR

Counterculture and Resistance Technology Expo

Symposium

Saturday, May 16, 2009, 9:30 AM to 8 PM

Hafenhalle09, Industriezeile 41a, 4020 Linz, Austria

NORMAL STATE OF AFFAIRS AMIDST THE CRISIS

Possibilities of Radical Art Practices in the Heterogeneous Social Sphere

With Alejandra Aravena, Marina Gržinić, Ruth Noack, Gerald Raunig, Dmitry Vilensky and Stephen Wright

Radical social art practices and interventions call into question normal states of affairs in our society. The spectrum ranges from cooperative forms of social commitment and participatory projects all the way to politically symbolic acts of provocation. An expanded definition of art, subversive techniques and experimental application of “artistic freedom” are the most frequently deployed strategies and tactical approaches to doing this.

This becomes a political undertaking above all when it's a matter of establishing a relationship between artists and those participating in a project in which an overhaul of the relationships of power is demanded and the aim of which is redistribution of resources including equal rights for all. Here, the spectrum of participation ranges from occasional meetings with local residents and passers-by all the way to intensive collaboration with theoreticians, activists and political groups. If the relationship between artists and participants is radically conceived and implemented, then it can become a strategic alliance and a political relationship that critically confronts the prevailing facts and circumstances themselves and simultaneously establishes a specific way of taking action.

Due to the current financial and economic crisis, radical art practices now find themselves at an extraordinary juncture since the economic crisis goes hand-in-hand with a crisis of normality. Cracks and gaps are emerging in existing thought patterns and relationships of power. These openings offer new points of attack for radical art interventions. In the sense

Pressekontakt:

Mag. Pia Leydolt, Tel +43 / (0)732 / 2009-37, Fax +43 / (0)732 / 2009-43, E-mail pia.leydolt@linz09.at

Linz 2009 Kulturhauptstadt Europas OrganisationsGmbH, Gruberstr. 2, A- 4020 Linz / www.linz09.at

of what Chantal Mouffe called an “agonistic struggle,” the very configuration of the relationships of power about which society is structured is now at stake. This is above all the case when we conceive of society as a heterogeneous social sphere in which antagonism should not be suppressed because it can have productive consequences.

The “Normal State of Affairs Amidst the Crisis” symposium will deal with the possibilities and real-world cases of political art practices. It will put them into an overall perspective of art history and discuss the potential of the many recent feminist, anti-racist and capitalism-critical projects within the context of social upheavals occurring right now.

A symposium of the Festival of the Regions 09

Concept and organization // Martin Krenn

www.martinkrenn.net

Festival of the Regions 09

<http://www.fdr.at>

Subversive Fair

<http://subversivmesse.net>

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